



Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

SECRETARIAT

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To the Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Synopsis of the meetings held in Paris on 6 November 2006

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris on 6 November 2006 with Mr Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE) and then Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC), 1st Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- ***The rights of national minorities in Latvia*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Adrian Severin, Romania, SOC*): considered and approved a report and adopted a draft resolution et a draft recommendation with a view to presenting them at the Standing Committee on 17 November 2006;
- ***The 2003 guidelines on the use of minority languages in the broadcast media and the Council of Europe standards: need to enhance cooperation and synergy with the OSCE*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Boriss Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC*): took position on the amendments tabled by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to the draft recommendation, and approved four sub-amendments;
- ***Member states' duty to cooperate with the European Court of Human Rights*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christos Pourgourides, Cyprus, EPP/DC*): heard a communication sent by the Rapporteur and authorised him to transmit to the authorities concerned for their comments the allegations of pressure brought to bear on applicants to the Court, which were brought to his attention after the hearing in June 2006;
- ***Precarious situation of national minorities in the Voivodina province of Serbia (and) Violation of the human rights of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia*** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jürgen Herrmann, Germany, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Serbia on 27-28 September 2006 and decided to change the title of the report to: "The situation of national minorities in Voivodina and of the Romanian ethnic minority in Serbia";
- ***Work programme of the Committee:***
 - *Report on the state of human rights and democracy in Europe*: heard a statement by Ms Jane Dinsdale, Director of Interparliamentary and Institutional Relations, on the state of discussions and decisions in the Bureau and instructed its Rapporteur, Mr Christos Pourgourides (Cyprus, EPP/CD), to prepare an outline report for the next meeting of the Bureau on 15 December 2006;
 - *Proposed time-table for the presentation of reports in 2006/2007*: took note of the proposed time-table;

- **Sub-Committee on Crime Problems and the Fight against Terrorism** (Chairperson: Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany, Andorra, SOC): heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held in Strasbourg on 5 October 2006;
- **Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights** (Chairperson: Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc, Netherlands, EPP/CD): heard a report by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held in Paris on 6 November at 9 h and asked its Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee to write to the President of the Assembly asking the Bureau to change its decision of 6 October 2006 concerning the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Bemelmans-Videc and others (Doc 11067);
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed the following rapporteurs:
 - *The accession of the European Union/European Community to the European Convention on Human Rights:* Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD)
 - *Legal remedies for human rights violations in the North-Caucasus Region* (for an information report): Mr Paschal Mooney (Ireland, ALDE)
 - *National selection procedures for candidates for the European Court of Human Rights:* Mr Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, EDG)
 - *The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member states:* Mr Holger Haibach (Germany, EPP/CD)
 - *Co-operation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its universality:* Mr Michel Hunault (France, EDG);
- **Appointment of representatives of the Committee:** appointed the following representatives:
 - Colloquy: "Protecting and supporting human rights defenders in Europe" (Strasbourg, 13-14 November 2006): Mr Holger Haibach (Germany, EPP/CD)
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice (Italy), 15-16 December 2006): Mrs Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (Germany, ALDE);
- **The incorporation of equality principles in the internal work and decision-making mechanisms of the parliamentary assembly and for candidatures to high-level posts in the Council of Europe:** decided to ask the Bureau to be seized for opinion on this report to be prepared by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Immunities;
- **Accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Erik Jurgens, Netherlands, SOC): authorised the Rapporteur to make a fact-finding visit to Podgorica from 30 November to 1 December 2006;
- **Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states** (Rapporteur: Mr Dick Marty, Switzerland, ALDE): authorised the Rapporteur to go, if necessary, to one or several of the member states mentioned in his report of 12 June 2006 (Doc 10957), before the end of the year or in the first months of 2007;
- **Freedom of assembly and expression for lesbian, gay bisexual and transgendered persons in member states (Doc 10832):** asked its Chairperson to write again to the Bureau asking that Reference No 3188 be modified so as to send the motion to the Committee for report (and not for it to be taken into account in the report on "'Legal recognition of same-sex partnerships in Europe");

- **Participation of members in conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.:** took note of written reports on the following events:
 - Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) (Strasbourg, 12-13 October 2006): Mr Jaume Bartumeu Cassany (Andorra, SOC)
 - 27th Conference of the European Ministers of Justice Yerevan (Armenia, 12-13 October 2006): Mr Armen Rustamyan (Armenia, SOC)
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law ("Venice Commission") (Venice (Italy), 13-14 October 2006): Mr Erik Jurgens (Netherlands, SOC)
 - Seminar on "International legal guarantees for the protection of national minorities and problems in their implementation, with a special focus on minority education" (Strasbourg, 18 October 2006) and meeting of the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) (Strasbourg, 19-20 October 2006): Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC)

- **Next meetings:**
 - Paris, Monday 18 December 2006 from 9 h to 14 h (Council of Europe Office)
 - Strasbourg, during the Assembly's 1st part-session (22-26 January 2007)

The Sub-Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights (of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights), meeting in Paris on 6 November 2006 with Mrs Marie-Louise Bemelmans-Videc (Netherlands, EPP/CD) in the Chair:

- took note of the Bureau's decision (approved by the Assembly on 6 October 2006) to take "no further action" concerning the motion for a resolution on "Candidates for the European Court of Human Rights" (Doc 11067), and was of the opinion that the Bureau should be invited to change its position concerning this motion;

- left it to its Chairperson to fix the date and place of the next meeting.

Andrew Drzemczewski, Günter Schirmer, Isild Heurtin

cc: Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly

Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe